

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An anti-HIV peptide ~~[[for the prevention or therapeutic treatment of HIV virus infection]]~~ that interacts with an antibody specific for an antigen of the envelope of said virus and obtained from an HIV-positive patient belonging to the "long-term nonprogressor" group, comprising an amino acid sequence which mimics a conformational epitope of an antigen of said envelope wherein the amino acids sequence does not correspond to a continuous amino acid sequence of this antigen.

2. (Previously Amended) The anti-HIV peptide according to claim 1, wherein the antigen is the envelope protein gp160.

3. (Previously Amended) The anti-HIV peptide according to claim 1, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- SEQ. ID. NO.: 1 Phe Asn Leu Thr His Phe Leu,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 2 Glu Gly Trp His Ala His Thr,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 3 Lys Leu Asn Trp Met Phe Thr,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 4 Ser Thr Asn Trp Met Phe Thr,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 5 Ala Met Pro Leu Pro Tyr Thr Phe,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 6 Asp Ser His Thr Pro Gln Arg,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 7 Val Ser Phe Thr Pro Ser Phe
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 8 His Ala Ala Leu Ser Met Asn Thr His Ala Leu Met,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 9 Ala Trp His Glu Ser Arg Ala,
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 10 Phe Lys Thr Ala Tyr Pro Thr, and
- SEQ. ID. NO.: 11 Ser His Ala Leu Pro Leu Thr Trp Ser Thr Ala Ala.

4. (Previously Amended) A peptide comprising at least two anti-HIV peptides according to claim 3.

5. (Previously Amended) The peptide according to claim 4, wherein the anti-HIV peptides are identical.

6. (Previously Amended) The peptide according to claim 5, wherein the two anti-HIV peptides are linked by means of a spacer arm consisting of the amino acid sequence Gly Pro Gly.

7. (Previously Amended) A conjugate comprising at least one peptide according to claim 3 bound to a carrier molecule, wherein the immunogenicity of the peptide is induced or enhanced.

8. (Previously Amended) The conjugate according to claim 7, wherein the carrier molecule comprises at least one helper T epitope of the HIV virus.

9. (Previously Amended) The conjugate according to claim 8, wherein the carrier molecule comprises HIV p24E or T1 epitopes.

10. (Previously Amended) The conjugate according to claim 9, comprising a first peptide selected from the sequences NO: 1, NO: 3 and NO: 4 linked to an identical second peptide by a Gly Pro Gly spacer to form a linked peptide, said linked peptide being bound on the N-terminal side by a spacer to the p24E epitope and the C-terminal side by a spacer to the T1 epitope.

11. (Amended) The conjugate according to claim 10, wherein the spacers bound to the p24E and T1 epitopes are identical and consist of the linkage Gly Pro Gly and the linked peptide comprises any one of SEQ. ID. NOs.: 12 to 14:

SEQ. ID. NO.: 12 Gly Pro Lys Glu Pro Phe Arg Asp Tyr Val Asp Arg Phe Tyr Lys Gly Pro Gly Lys
Leu Asn Trp Met Phe Thr Gly Pro Gly Lys Leu Asn Trp Met Phe Thr Gly Pro Gly
Lys Gln Ile Ile Asn Met Trp Gln Glu Val Glu Lys Ala Met Tyr Ala;

SEQ. ID. NO.: 13 Gly Pro Lys Glu Pro Phe Arg Asp Tyr Val Asp Arg Phe Tyr Lys Gly Pro Gly Ser
Thr Asn Trp Met Phe Thr Gly Pro Gly Ser Thr Asn Trp Met Phe Thr Gly Pro Gly
Lys Gln Ile Ile Asn Met Trp Gln Glu Val Glu Lys Ala Met Tyr Ala; or

SEQ. ID. NO.: 14 Gly Pro Lys Glu Pro Phe Arg Asp Tyr Val Asp Arg Phe Tyr Lys Gly Pro Gly Phe
Asn Leu Thr His Phe Leu Gly Pro Gly Phe Asn Leu Thr His Phe Leu Gly Pro Gly
Lys Gln Ile Ile Asn Met Trp Gln Glu Val Glu Lys Ala Met Tyr Ala.

12. (Previously Amended) A recombinant vector comprising a functional expression

cassette comprising a polynucleotide encoding a peptide according to one of claims 3, 4, 8, and 11.

13. (Previously Amended) The recombinant vector according to claim 12, wherein the vector is an adenovirus, a poxvirus, a baculovirus, a bacteriophage or a plasmid.

14. (Amended) A ~~[[therapeutic or prophylactic]]~~ composition ~~[[for HIV infection wherein the active ingredient comprises]]~~ comprising a peptide according to one of claims 3, 4, 8, and 11 and/or a recombinant vector encoding said peptide.

15. (Amended) The composition according to claim 14, further comprising ~~[[wherein the active ingredient is combined with]]~~ a compatible adjuvant for administration of an effective dose by the mucosal or parenteral route.

16-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method of diagnosing HIV comprising measuring the humoral and/or cell-mediated immune response of a blood sample contacted with a peptide according to claims 3 or 4.

21. (Original) A method of diagnosing HIV comprising measuring the humoral and/or cell-mediated immune response of a blood sample contacted with a conjugate according to claims 8 or 11.

22. (Amended) A method of ~~[[preventing or treating HIV]]~~ inducing an immune response in a patient comprising stimulating immune system cells of a patient *in vitro* with a peptide according to claims 3 or 4 and then re-injecting the cells into the patient's body.

23. (Amended) A method of ~~[[preventing or treating HIV]]~~ inducing an immune response in a patient comprising stimulating immune system cells of a patient *in vitro* with a conjugate according to claims 8 or 11 and then re-injecting the cells into the patient's body.